

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please cancel claims 1-10 in the underlying PCT application, without prejudice.

Please also cancel claims 1-10 in the annex to the International Preliminary Examination Report, without prejudice.

Please add the following new claims:

11. (New) A method for transmitting data packets in a communications system in a frame-oriented form between a master station and a plurality of subscribers, comprising:

exchanging useful data packets and control data packets between the master station and the subscribers, at least one of the useful data packets and the control data packets being stored in containers within a transmission frame;

storing an identifier in an information element within each of the containers within the transmission frame to identify a virtual connection to which at least one of the useful data packets belongs, the identifier indicating the connection to which at least one of the containers for user data packets transmitted by one of the subscribers to the master station belongs; and

freely dividing by the one of the subscribers a capacity allocated to the one of the subscribers by the master station among user data packets and control data packet.

12. (New) The method according to claim 11, wherein the storing step includes storing the identifier within at least one of the control data packets.

13. (New) The method according to claim 11, further comprising:

transmitting the identifier in the information element, the information element including at least connection identifiers for subsequent containers for useful data packets of one connection.

14. (New) The method according to claim 11, wherein the storing step includes storing the information element as two fields for the virtual connection, a first field for a connection identifier, and a second field for a number of subsequent containers for user data packets for the virtual connection.